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Rapture

Louis A. Palivos



The belief that Jesus Christ shall Rapture the Faithful Church before the Great Tribulation, a period of intense global persecution, is widely held by many Christians. The Prophet Daniel, St. Paul in his Epistles, St. Matthew, St. John in Revelation and the Lord Jesus Christ gave the Church guidelines regarding this coming cosmic event. However, this article will focus on the position that the Faithful Church shall go through intense persecution and go through the Great Tribulation, the likes of which it has not seen nor will see again in the future. “*But if these days had not been cut short, Gk. εκολοβώθησαν, ekolobothesan, for the elects’ sake nobody would be saved.*” Math. 24:22. “*He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and shall gather together His elect.*” Mth. 24:31. “*Two men will be in the field, one will be taken, παραλαμβάνεται, Gk. paralambaneta, and one left.*” St. Math. 24:40.

The Critical Holy Scripture Connection

The Lord Jesus Christ is the critical connection regarding the Rapture as revealed to the Prophet Daniel, St. Paul, St. Matthew, and St. John: “Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” Matt. 24:1-2 “I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist *was* girded with gold of Uphaz!”

Dan. 10:5

“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lamp-stands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters.”

Rev. 1:12-15

“For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.” I Thes. 4:15

The Critical Historical Time Frame

The Prophet Daniel was a captive at Babylon. He earnestly prayed to God Almighty and asked what will happen to his people (Hebrews) and his Holy City, Jerusalem. His prayers were answered. (continued p. 2)

KAS to meet in bid to change rules on Elliniko project



The Central Archaeological Council (KAS), Greece’s top advisory body on the protection of antiquities, which has quite a few new faces, may meet as soon as next week to discuss modifications to a joint ministerial decision that will affect the stalled Elliniko investment plan.

According to sources, the new KAS council, which will be presided over by its new president, Giorgos Didaskalou, is expected to meet on August 21. This will be followed by a meeting of a KAS branch that rules on modern buildings (KSNM), which has jurisdiction over four existing buildings at the former airport in southern Athens.

KAS will discuss easing the rules for construction close to archaeological finds at the site. The Development Ministry aims to clear the three pending ministerial decisions by August 27.

Shortly before the general election on July 7, the previous Culture Ministry leadership handed Elliniko developer Lamda a joint ministerial decision regarding all studies for tall buildings, special constructions and infrastructure works which required the ministry’s approval for any work around the monuments on the site.

Greek developer Lamda signed a 99-year lease with the state in 2014 for the 620-hectare plot. Backed by Chinese and Gulf investors, Lamda submitted an 8-billion-euro plan in July to turn the site into one of Europe’s biggest coastal resorts. Since then, the project has come up against a series of bureaucratic obstacles.

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THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
- 2.To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
- 6.To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
- 7.To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

Numbers of German tourists decline



A recession at home, combined with Greek hotels' loss of competitiveness, due to their being overburdened by taxation, and the recovery of destinations such as Egypt and Turkey, has led to a drop in the number of German tourists this year.

Reservations by Germans on Crete were down 6 percent in July compared to the same month last year, while those in Rhodes dropped 5 percent.

The island of Kos was the exception, showing a 21 percent increase in bookings, to a large extent due to new hotels available.

Iraklio was the Germans' fourth biggest destination for July behind Antalya, Turkey, where bookings went up 1 percent, Palma de Majorca (a 10 percent drop) and Hurghada, Egypt (up 11 percent).

Rhodes and Kos were eighth and ninth, respectively.

In 2018, 4.38 million Germans visited Greece, up 18.2 percent from 2017, spending a total of 2.962 billion euros, up 16 percent.

Rapture

(From p.1)

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, *there shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. “And after the sixty-two weeks *essiah shall be cut off*, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.” Dan. 9:24-27

Sir Robert Anderson, in his book, *The Coming Prince*, gives an accurate analysis of Daniel's 70 weeks, that is, one week is seven years, of years. The Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, “cut-off”, on the 69th week of years. There remains a 1 week, that is, seven years or 7x360=2520 days plus another 75 days to conclude the 70th week of Daniel.

Prior to Jesus Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection, the Disciples were anxious to hear answers to these critical questions of which St. Matthew was an eyewitness to these three questions.

- 1) Tell us, when will there be the destruction of the Temple?
- 2) What will be the sign of your parousia, Gk. παρουσία? and,
- 3) When will be the sign of the end of the age? Math. 24:3

The Lord Jesus Christ revealed to the Disciples the signs in the Olivet Discourse. The Reader may wish to read St. Matthew Chapter 24, St. Mark Chapter 13 and St. Luke Chapters 17 and 21. Jesus Christ basically provides a three part time frame: the Beginning of the Birth pangs, the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord, see diagram below. The Reader may wish to read Marvin Rosenthal's book, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church*, which contains many diagrams.

Conspicuously, St. John does not write about the Olivet Discourse but he does write what the Lord Jesus Christ revealed to him in Revelation, chapters 6, 7 and 8.

Former FM hails Skopje plaque on Alexander the Great statue



A bid by the authorities in North Macedonia to relabel public statues of historic figures was undermined on Friday by vandals who removed three plaques from statues in Skopje.

The statues targeted by the vandals depict ancient Greek warrior king Alexander the Great and the accompanying plaques explain that they belong to ancient Greek history. “In honor of Alexander the Great, a historic figure belonging to the ancient Hellenic history and civilization and to the world cultural and historic heritage,” read one of the three plaques, which was recovered later in the day.

Greece's former foreign minister Nikos Kotzias, who signed the deal last year with North Macedonia that ended a longstanding bilateral dispute over the Balkan country's name, said the inscription on the plaque vindicated his decision to champion the contentious agreement.

“Today a plaque went up in Skopje under the statue of Alexander the Great saying that he was a Greek hero who belongs to the history of the ancient Greeks,” Kotzias wrote on Twitter. “This is yet another act of friendship between peoples and a blow against irredentism,” he wrote. “It is an answer to all those who cursed me.”

Kotzias, who was dismissed from the cabinet of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras following a clash with the latter's coalition partner Panos Kammenos, had come under vehement criticism for the so-called Prespes deal, with many Greeks accusing him of betraying the country's interests.

ANTONIS H. DIAMATARIS

The reason why I have returned to the homeland



After having spent nearly five decades in New York, where I studied, made a career, and created a family, I decided to return to my homeland, at the invitation of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, to undertake the responsibility of Greece's relations with Greeks Living Abroad.

I came to this admittedly difficult decision for two main reasons: First, because I profoundly believe in Kyriakos Mitsotakis, both as a politician and as a person. Second, because I consider this to be a rare opportunity to work, as I have done from the position of Publisher-Editor of The National Herald for forty years, with the goal of strengthening the troubled relations between the mother country and Greeks abroa

To be specific: For decades the homeland treated Greeks living abroad in a haphazard fashion, unwilling to take advantage of the opportunities offered by them. Instead of trying hard to maintain close relationships with them, the country did exactly the opposite, contrary to its own direct interests.

The bitter truth is that the country did not show any concern, as it should have, for Greeks living abroad. The majority of Greek politicians were content to extend flatteries and empty promises to us.

For example, some people in Athens are frustrated because of the reduced influence of the Greek lobby in the United States, without analyzing the causes. They express their irritation because only certain Greek-Americans they call "opportunists" try to make contact with them, without wondering why. Greek officials demand sacrifices from us "in the interest of the mother country," without considering what kind of an example they set for the rest of us.

However, Greeks living abroad do not give up, despite the fact they are left to their own devices. Many fight tooth and nail to pass on language, religion, history, culture and traditions to their children. Many Greeks living abroad are struggling, against the trends of our times, to preserve the sacred values of our people, because he/she is deeply aware of their importance first hand.

To treat the expatriates as if they were alien to the developments in Greece, as "Americanakia," is not simply misguided, but also a sign of inadmissible ignorance and arrogance with negative repercussions for the Greek nation.

At this point, I would like to make a strong appeal to all political parties in Greece. The issue of the relations between Greece and Greeks living abroad is not a partisan one. It is purely a national issue. Therefore, all political parties should place the interest of the nation above and beyond petty politics and rise to the occasion.

A case in point is the issue of granting Greeks abroad the right to vote in the countries where they live. It is a shame for Greece, in the year 2019, to be the only EU country which denies its citizens that right. Let us put petty politics behind us once and for all and serve the national interest.

I hope the reasons why I have returned have become clear. In short, I have returned to contribute to the strengthening of the fraternal relations between our homeland and the Greeks living abroad. Let us all embrace each other, Greeks in Greece and abroad, and work together to build the best possible country, and to preserve our Greek communities outside the country.

My brothers and sisters, Greeks living abroad greeted my appointment as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs with responsibility for Greeks Living Abroad enthusiastically and consider it a gesture of genuine concern for them on the part of the Prime Minister. Thank you. I promise that I will work very hard not to disappoint them.

* Antonis H. Diamataris is Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs with responsibility for Greeks Living Abroad.

On line

Greenland: Trump warned that island cannot be bought from Denmark



Greenland is an autonomous Danish territory between the North Atlantic and Arctic oceans

Greenland has said it is "not for sale" after President Donald Trump stated that he would like the US to buy the world's biggest island. The president is said to have discussed the idea of purchasing Greenland, an autonomous Danish territory, during dinners and meetings with advisers. But Greenland's government dismissed the idea, saying: "We're open for business, not for sale."

Mr Trump's plans have also been quickly dismissed by politicians in Denmark. "It must be an April Fool's Day joke...but totally out of [season]!", tweeted former Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen. The Wall Street Journal (WSJ), which first reported the news, said Mr Trump had spoken about the purchase with "varying degrees of seriousness". Sources quoted in other media differed over whether the president was joking or seriously hoping to expand US territory.

How has Greenland reacted?

Officials in Greenland have insisted that the island is not on the market.

"Greenland is rich in valuable resources such as minerals, the purest water and ice, fish stocks, seafood, renewable energy and is a new frontier for adventure tourism. We're open for business, not for sale," the foreign ministry said in a statement shared on social media. Greenland Premier Kim Kielsen repeated the comments in a separate statement. "Greenland is not for sale, but Greenland is open for trade and cooperation with other countries, including the USA," he said.

Greenland MP Aaja Chemnitz Larsen was also among those to dismiss the president's interest. "No thanks to Trump buying Greenland!", she wrote on Twitter, adding that a "better and more equal partnership with Denmark" was the way forward. But he said he thought the chances of Mr Trump's reported ambitions being realised were unlikely. "We'd like to cooperate with the US, no doubt about that, but we are independent and we decide who our friends are."

What about Denmark?

Politicians in Denmark have ridiculed the idea of a possible US acquisition.

"If he is truly contemplating this, then this is final proof, that he has gone mad," foreign affairs spokesman for the populist Danish People's Party, Soren Espersen, told national broadcaster DR. "The thought of Denmark selling 50,000 citizens to the United States is completely ridiculous." "Out of all things that are not going to happen, this is the most unlikely. Forget it," Danish Conservative MP Rasmus Jarlov wrote on Twitter.

Mr Trump is scheduled to visit Denmark in September but there is no indication that the possible acquisition of Greenland is on the agenda. The WSJ reported that it was "unclear" how the US would go about acquiring Greenland if Mr Trump was serious.

Where is Greenland?

Greenland is the largest island in the world (after Australia, which is defined as a continent in its own right). It is an autonomous Danish territory, located between the North Atlantic and Arctic oceans. It has a population of about 56,000 people concentrated around the coastline. Almost 90% are indigenous Greenlandic Inuit people. It has a limited self-government and its own parliament.

More than 80% of the island is covered by an ice cap which is feared to be melting due to global warming. The ice melt has increased access to the island's mineral resources. But it's also believed that the receding ice may expose toxic nuclear waste that was left at several US military sites during the Cold War.

Why would it be appealing to Trump?

Mr Trump has reportedly taken an interest in Greenland, in part, because of its natural resources, such as coal, zinc, copper and iron ore. But while Greenland might be rich in minerals, it currently relies on Denmark for two thirds of its budget revenue. It has high rates of suicide, alcoholism and unemployment. Two people briefed on the discussions told the New York Times the president was also interested in Greenland's "national security value" because of its location. The US has long seen the island as being strategically important and established an air force and radar base there at the start of the Cold War. Republican Representative Mike Gallagher described Mr Trump's idea as a "smart geopolitical move".

Can countries buy territories?

Historically, countries have acquired territory not only through military conquest but also financial deals. 3 Louisiana Purchase, the US acquired about 827,000 sq miles (2.1m sq km) of land from France for \$15m (£12.3m). In 1867, the US reached a deal with Russia to purchase Alaska for \$7.2m. The US later purchased the Danish West Indies in 1917 and renamed them the US Virgin Islands. However, Duke University law professor Joseph Blocher told the BBC that the practice "has basically dried up".

US election 2020: Which Democrat will take on Trump in 2020?

Joe Biden 76 years old Obama's VP

Joe Biden is a front-runner in the Democratic presidential contest, if not the front-runner. He has near universal name recognition, high approval ratings, and the potential to raise vast amounts of campaign money through traditional Democratic donor networks. Of course, so did Hillary Clinton in 2015 - and we all know how that turned out. Mrs Clinton's key weakness was her lengthy time in the public eye, leaving a long record for her opponents to pick apart, and binding her to a status quo establishment many Americans had come to distrust. Mr Biden shares those challenges in spades, and he faces a much more diverse and talented primary field than Mrs Clinton did. There are also questions about whether the 76-year-old candidate has the stamina to maintain a lengthy and arduous campaign schedule. The former Delaware senator unsuccessfully sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988 and 2008 and declined to run in 2016 after the death of his son from brain cancer.

His long voting record, which includes backing the Iraq War in 2002 and sponsoring a controversial anti-crime bill in 1996, has already drawn criticism from some of his more liberal opponents.

He has sharply criticised Donald Trump for "trashing American values", but he's seen as a Democrat who could work with Republicans.

Elizabeth Warren 70 years old

Elizabeth Warren has been a favourite of the progressive left since she emerged on the political scene to push for tougher regulation of the financial sector after the 2008 economic crash.

During her time in the US Senate she became known for her hard-nosed interrogations of Wall Street executives and as an outspoken critic of income inequality.

That loyal base may be enough to rise to the top of a fractured Democratic presidential field - but she will probably have to pry some supporters away from Bernie Sanders, who will be competing with her for progressive hearts and minds.

She's got financial chops and is building a formidable political operation, but professorial Massachusetts liberals are a tough sell to the rest of the country. Progressives will have to decide if they find her promise of economic reform more attractive than Bernie's revolutionary zeal.

Bernie Sanders 77 years old

The Vermont senator would be 79 on election day, but he's decided to make another run at the top prize.

His long-shot bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016 captured the hearts of American

progressives, and he has been packing arenas with loyal supporters ever since.

But former allies Elizabeth Warren and Tulsi Gabbard are both

also running this time round and could carve off some of his support

Bernie Sanders is a victim of his own success. In 2016 he pulled the Democratic Party to the left, but it means he's not as unique a candidate in 2020. He has the advantages of name recognition, fund-raising and national campaign organisation, but his opponents won't avoid attacking him the way Hillary Clinton did three years ago. His days as a plucky underdog are over.

Kamala Harris 54 years old

She has one of the most liberal voting records in the US Senate at a time when Democrats are leaning to the left, but she also has a background as a hard-nosed prosecutor.

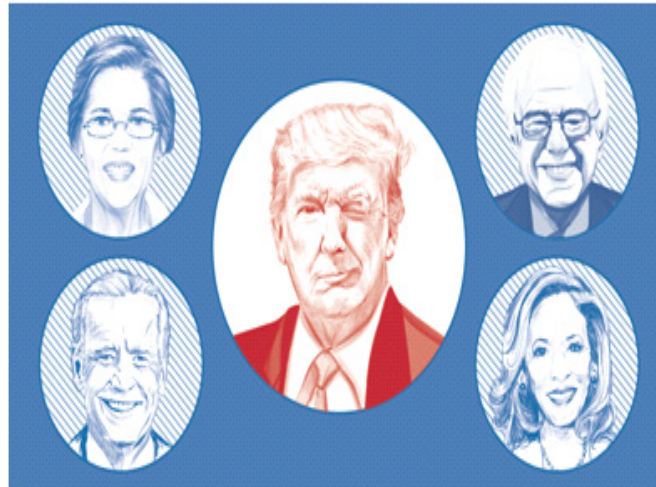
That background may end up a vulnerability as well, given that some progressives have criticised her for failing to support California criminal justice reform efforts and pointed to her prosecutorial record as being insufficiently sensitive to the rights of the accused.

She will be tested in the coming months, but she looks and sounds like the kind of fresh-faced candidate that will appeal to a wide range of Democratic constituencies. If she can post decent showings in the early states of Iowa and New Hampshire, she'll be well-positioned to emerge from the pack when the primary voting moves south and west.

Election day is still more than a year away, but the race to become the Democratic challenger to Donald Trump is already well under way.

Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders have thrown their hats into the ring, but most of the other candidates are relatively unknown outside the Washington DC bubble.

The group features the usual mix of senators and other members of Congress, but this year it also includes a record number of women, a gay mayor and a spiritual counsellor.



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NEWS FROM GREECE

Capital controls set to expire in September



A first step toward the final abolition of capital controls in Greece after four years was made last week. On Wednesday, Finance Minister Christos Staikouras sent Greece's creditors (the European Commission, the European Stability Mechanism and the International Monetary Fund) the draft text of the regulation abolishing the last controls on the free flow of capital, and the response is expected to be positive.

The exit from the capital controls, which were introduced in late June 2015, is seen happening in September. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is expected to announce the move at the Thessaloniki International Fair, customarily where the premier of the day talks about the following year's major economic policies.

Greek central banker Yannis Stournaras had already proposed the abolition of capital controls in July, based on rising deposits, and retail bankers have agreed that the timing is good for such a measure.

The Bank of Greece has said that it is not only unconcerned about a possible outflow of deposits abroad when the final obstacles are dropped, but is confident that deposits will continue to rise as confidence in the economy's prospects grows.

Abolishing capital controls is chiefly aimed at Greece's debt being upgraded by the rating agencies to "investment grade." At present, two of the three main rating agencies rate Greece four levels below investment grade and the third one has it three levels below.

Upgrading the debt is crucial, not only because it would further reduce the cost of borrowing, but also because it would allow Greece to be included in the European Central Bank's next round of quantitative easing (QE), whereby a lowering of interest rates, which concerns every eurozone member, is combined with ECB purchases of member states' bonds.

At present, with its "junk" rating, Greece cannot benefit from this aspect of QE.

In addition, Greece must also convince the creditors that it has a viable program to reduce its banks' nonperforming loans. The government will also unveil its 2020 budget in September, keeping the primary surplus target of 3.5 percent of GDP.

Anastasiades and Akinci willing to meet in New York

Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish-Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci reportedly expressed their readiness Friday to resume talks in New York next month along with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The two men held an informal meeting Friday at the residence of the UN's special representative Elizabeth Spehar in the United Nations buffer zone in Nicosia.

"The two leaders had a sincere and constructive exchange of views and they discussed in depth the basic principles. They decided to continue engaging in the efforts undertaken by Ms Jane Holl Lute with the determination to finalize the Terms of Reference that would enable structured and results-oriented negotiations leading to a settlement with a sense of urgency," said a statement issued by UN spokesman Aleem Siddique.



"The two leaders also decided to announce their readiness to hold a tripartite meeting with the secretary-general after the United Nations General Assembly in order to plan the way forward," the statement added.

According to reports, Anastasiades made a specific proposal in order to pave the way for a resumption of negotiations.

He also said that Turkey must "show good will by ending its illegal actions and stop encouraging actions that instead of creating a climate of confidence, undermine, or create a climate of distrust or tensions."

Turkey, he said, must back down from its insistence on maintaining the Treaty of Guarantees on the island as well as its troops there.

Despite the disagreements and differences that were registered between the two sides, Anastasiadis was reportedly pleased with the meeting as there appeared to be a channel of understanding.

Moreover, Akinci reportedly showed a will to continue the process of resuming negotiations.

Editorial: The times are not propitious for the Mitsotakis government



The clouds are thickening over the global and the European economy.

A confluence of events and conditions has created an environment of uncertainty and insecurity.

The protectionist measures imposed by US President Donald Trump with an excessive increase of tariffs on Chinese products and his occasional threats against the Europeans are pressuring international trade and triggering reactions and counter-measures.

The Chinese are already being accused of devaluing their currency to counter Trump's measures and thus introducing monetary warfare in the

conflict.

The apparently evolving disorderly Brexit is aggravating uncertainties in the global economic system and Boris Johnson's references to new commercial groupings of states confirm the concerns of those who believe that the international free trade regime of the last decades is imperiled.

Already, this disheartening global climate is testing the endurance of Germany whose economy is moving ineluctably toward recession if low growth rates continue through the third quarter. Countries such as Argentina face insufferable pressure and the spectre of a new bankruptcy.

That explains the negative reactions of markets, the constant decline on stock markets, and on the other hand the rise of bond and gold prices.

All that has raised concerns among analysts and bolsters the fans of self-fulfilling prophesies of a new cycle of recession for the global economy after the disastrous consequences of the great financial crisis of 2008.

In any event, the conditions are not the best for our small, embattled country.

The ambitious, new Mitsotakis government which hoped to benefit from a positive international environment will have to pursue the recovery of the Greek economy in a global environment with low expectations in times of instability and uncertainty.

These increased demands will require increased efforts.

The times are not propitious for Mr. Mitsotakis.

He must act swiftly and decisively.

In these tough times there is no room for reservations and indecisiveness.

Famed composer Mikis Theodorakis issues impassioned plea for Greek-Turkish understanding



Our peoples have nothing to divide as long as the leaders behave responsibly and realistically.

"Though due to my age I have withdrawn from public affairs, the interview two days ago of Turkish-Cypriot leader Akinci with Ta Nea forces me to marshal my forces and speak again," said famed composer and left-wing icon Mikis Theodorakis in an opinion piece that was widely discussed.

"In 1986, I took the initiative along with other friends in Greece and in Turkey to form the first Greek-Turkey friendship committee in Constantinople which immediately received support from both peoples."

"Once I returned to Athens after the establishment of the committee, Pasok received me as a traitor. Not long afterwards, Andreas Papandreou invited me to his home in Kastrì [north of Athens] to tell me "You are

right. I had not seen things properly. That is why I called in the journalists who are awaiting us to admit that."

"Immediately thereafter, he called in the entire committee to ask us to convey to Turkey his own message of friendship."

"Hence, we went to Constantinople [Istanbul] to convey our message of friendship on behalf of Andreas Papandreou.

As I read his statement on camera for the then sole television station, the channel for the first time broadcast the image of the Greek PM

"The next day in Ankara we held talks with all party leaders and naturally with PM Turgut Ozal. We conveyed to all the views of Andreas Papandreou about the start of a new era in bilateral relations and they were received enthusiastically."

In Greece, we found the same acceptance, particularly in the provinces, where local committees had started to be formed, beginning with Preveza and Ioannina.

Immediately after Andreas Papandreou, Constantine Mitsotakis became Prime Minister and he asked me to convey the same message of friendship and cooperation to Ozal, who had become President of Turkey.

Along with the Turkish Committee for Greek-Turkish Friendship headed by Ankara University Professor Ekrem Akurgal, we visited large Turkish cities and were received with enthusiasm.

I am here recording what the two leaders told me:

Mitsotakis: "Let us make a new beginning, as did Eleftherios Venizelos and Kemal Atatürk."

Ozal: "I am willing and thank the Greek Prime Minister. All that is said about expansionist policies are myths. Today the values of people are not measured in geographic area but rather by their social development.

Then he showed me his cell phone which was then unknown to us, Theodorakis says, and asked me what my home phone number is and what foreign language my wife speaks. I said French. He called my number and said I am President Ozal, I am happy to speak with you and I'm passing you over to your husband.

You will say Erdogan is in power today. Certainly, Turkey has changed. What will not change unto the ages is that Turkey is our neighbour and will always be.

Our peoples have nothing to divide as long as the leaders behave responsibly and realistically.

Now I come to the issue of hydrocarbons. So I ask, why does no Greek government dare to declare Greece's EEZ? I believe it is because the US and Europe do not allow it. I agree that the Turkish threat is an obstacle. That obstacle can be lifted perhaps if before that step we take an initiative to reach an understanding with Turkey.

It worth the effort to turn Turkey from a competitor into an a partner.

As for the percentages of the wealth for each side that will be the result of negotiations based on international law and common sense in a spirit of justice and raw realism. This is better for Greek interests than creating a front with the risk of a military confrontation for the which the two peoples on either side of the Aegean will pay the price.

Chicago’s National Hel- lenic Museum Launches Free, Online Collections Portal (video)

The National Hellenic Museum (NHM) announced on Wednesday the launch of the NHM Collections & Archives Portal, which allows anyone to access the Museum’s catalogs online from anywhere by viewing digitized artifacts and



archival materials.

Visitors may access the free, digital NHM Collections & Archives to view items such as hand-woven textiles from the 1800s, articles of clothing from 1900, historical photographs depicting early Greek American immigrant life and much more.

“The NHM Collections & Archives Portal showcases the ongoing work the Museum does to protect, catalog and preserve the historical archives representing the Greek American experience. We are very excited to highlight the important work the National Hellenic Museum does gathering history for all Greek Americans and of course for Philhellenes and scholars,” said Dr. Laura Calamos.

“With the launch of the digital archives, everyone will now be able to learn about our storied history and culture from anywhere in the world!” she added.

On the Portal, the NHM Collections & Archives are organized in five sections:

Artifacts, which contains a wide variety of three-dimensional items, including religious objects, furniture, textiles, paintings, and ephemera;



- 1926 silk dress. National Hellenic Museum
- Library, which is comprised of books in both Greek and English;
- Oral Histories, which contains hundreds of recorded interviews with Greek Americans (full-length interviews available onsite at the Museum only);
- Images, a sizeable collection of historic photographs representing Greek American life throughout the 20th century;
- circa 1945, National Hellenic Museum
- and Archives, which contains a growing number of finding aids for the processed archival collections donated by Greek American businesses, organizations, churches, and families.

The NHM Collections & Archives Portal offers users the opportunity to search for pieces of history by year, language, collection, individuation, material and organization.

“This is just the beginning for the Portal. Every day we continue to add artifacts for online viewing, and we conduct research to add more detail about each item’s place in history,” said Collections Manager Margaret Fraser.

“With such a great resource so accessible, we encourage everyone to continue to check back often and interact with the NHM Collections online. Now everyone can help build the historical record which will add rich details for preserving the memories of the community,” she added.

SYRIZA slams familiar tactics



SYRIZA leftists have given a clear indication in Parliament of the type of opposition politics they plan to engage in against Greece’s newly elected conservative administration. And that hasn’t come as much of a surprise. After all, the party of Alexis Tsipras, the country’s former prime minister, has made it clear that it will seek to oppose the government on every possible front, both inside the House and on the streets.

It was popular protests and a strategy of polarization that enabled SYRIZA to climb to power. Meanwhile, judging from its share in the July elections, where it garnered 31.53 percent of the vote, SYRIZA essentially got away with its despicable record during its time in government. The party leaders and officials are very deft when it comes to divisive discourse and artfully disguise their hollow existence behind it. So why would they change their strategy?

Sure, it is rather unpleasant for a journalist to have to analyze the policies of the opposition rather than monitor the party in power. However, by now it has become clear that SYRIZA leaders and their fans in the media will not give up their bad habits easily. We saw Tsipras hammering away at the government in Parliament with his trademark insolence over policies that he and his government were busy implementing up until a month ago.

The former prime minister accused the government of planning to dismantle the country’s democratic institutions, of seeking to build a strictly and centrally controlled partisan state in the style of Hungary’s Victor Orban or Brazil’s Jair Bolsonaro, of controlling the news media and so on.

And these words were actually coming from a man whose party over four years did everything in its power to undermine the nation’s institutions, to hijack the state apparatus, to control the media, to spread lies and misinformation, and to slander their political rivals.

Some might counter that all that is within the rules of the parliamentary game. But this is not quite true. SYRIZA’s leaders veered beyond the limits of what is politically acceptable and tried to impose their own rules, which went as far as trying to hold the next government to ransom in order to consolidate its failure.

Installing Vassiliki Thanou as head of the country’s independent Competition Commission was part of that plan.

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*LA Lakers Sign Kostas
Antetokounmpo,
Brother of Giannis*



Kostas and Giannis Antetokounmpo

The NBA’s Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday signed Kostas Antetokounmpo, the younger brother of Giannis Antetokounmpo, to a two-way contract after claiming him off waivers from the Dallas Mavericks.

Kostas Antetokounmpo, 21, appeared in two games for the Dallas Mavericks in 2018-19, playing 11 total minutes and scoring two points.

The younger Antetokounmpo brother, who will likely spend most of the season with the G League’s South Bay Lakers, remains a major developmental prospect.

American media are speculating that the signing indicates that the Lakers are laying the groundwork to make a move for the Greek Freak himself when he is scheduled to hit free agency in the 2021 offseason.



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Trump blames 'airports' gaffe on teleprompter



Trump claims army 'took over airports' in 1775

US President Donald Trump has blamed a teleprompter going "kaput" for a glaring anachronism in his Independence Day speech.

He told crowds on 4 July the Continental Army "took over the airports" during the American Revolutionary War in the 1770s.

Observers quickly pointed out there was no air travel in 18th Century America. Explaining away the slip-up on Friday, Mr Trump also said it was hard to read the teleprompter in the rain.

During his "Salute to America" speech at the Lincoln Memorial on Thursday, he was talking about the year 1775 when he said: "Our army manned the air, it rammed the ramparts, it took over the airports, it did everything it had to do."

Critics pointed out the rebels could not have seized airports more than a century before the first powered flight - credited to the Wright brothers in 1903 - took off.

In the same sentence, Mr Trump also appeared to date a battle at Fort Mifflin to the American Revolution, when it unfolded decades later during the War of 1812.

Outside the White House on Friday, Mr Trump said: "I guess the rain knocked out the teleprompter. I knew the speech very well so I was able to do it without a teleprompter but the teleprompter did go out and it was actually hard to look at anyway because there was rain all over it but despite the rain it was just a fantastic evening."

The president spoke to reporters as he departed with First Lady Melania Trump for the weekend to his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey.

Before winning the White House, Mr Trump used to criticise ex-President Barack Obama for relying on an autocue.

The president's Independence Day celebration saw military tanks transported into the nation's capital and a flyover by the Navy Blue Angels aerobatics team.

His critics had pilloried the event as inappropriately partisan and a misuse of public funds.

But Mr Trump surprised some by steering clear of overt partisanship in his speech, instead celebrating patriotic themes and US history including civil rights.

Before a cheering crowd on the steps of the monument to Civil War era-president Abraham Lincoln, he said the story of America was "the greatest political journey in human history".

He was the first president in nearly seven decades to address a crowd at the National Mall on the Fourth of July.

Greek-American Kratsios Confirmed as United States Chief Technology Officer

US Chief Technology Officer-designate Michael Kratsios with his parents John and Maria, along with Mike Manatos WASHINGTON, DC, August 2, 2019 - Yesterday, the United States Senate confirmed by unanimous consent the nomination of Greek-American Michael Kratsios to serve as the United States' Chief Technology officer before adjourning for the August recess. He is now the highest-ranking Greek-American in the Administration.



Last week, during his confirmation hearing before the US Senate Commerce Committee, Kratsios began his testimony by saying: "My mother and my grandfather came to the United States from native Greece in search of a more prosperous future. They instilled in me that enduring optimism for a better tomorrow. And I believe that embracing technological innovation, building new technologies

in America and shaping those technologies with American values will lead us to that stronger future." He has served as the Acting Chief Technology Officer since the beginning of this administration. He has been the White House's principal technology policy advisor and a secretary-level representative of the US at international meetings, including at the G7 and G20. He has led a team of policy advisors driving US policy and priorities on a range of technology issues, including: artificial intelligence (AI), unmanned aerial systems, autonomous vehicles, quantum computing, telecommunications, rural broadband, entrepreneurship, the digital economy, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing and STEM education.

Giannis Antetokounmpo Would Trade MVP Award for World Cup for Greece



Giannis Antetokounmpo said that he would give up his NBA MVP award if Greece could win gold at the FIBA Basketball World Cup in China, according to Yahoo! Sports. The World Cup competition gets underway in nine cities across China on August 31.

The NBA and Milwaukee Bucks superstar is excited to play with the Greek national team in this year's tournament.

"I would exchange the MVP title for the gold medal in China," Antetokounmpo is quoted as saying on the FIBA Basketball World Cup's official website.

And the basketball great will not only be playing for the love of his country. He will also have the distinction of being able to play on a global level with his two brothers, Thanasis and Kostas, with whom he is extremely close and who are also on Greece's national team.

Antetokounmpo is set to become the very first reigning MVP to compete in basketball's World Cup. He will also be by far the highest-profile player at the tournament this year, as many NBA stars turned down the opportunity to compete for the United States.

With three Antetokounmpo brothers playing for the Greek team, and the US team appearing weaker than usual this year, it appears that Greece may have a good chance to win the World Cup in China later this month.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Calls for Spiritual Resistance After U.S. Massacres

In a statement released Sunday, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew expressed his revulsion and deep shock at the murderous shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio.



At least thirty people were killed at the two separate attacks that shocked the American nation.

Patriarch Bartholomew said he strongly condemns "all acts of hatred, be it racial, religious or social, but also any form of violence and fundamentalism, wherever they may come

from."

"Hate and violence," he pointed out, "cause a great deal of pain and fear, and are sometimes the cause of further acts of violence in the form of revenge. In the face of this rising, dangerous and bloody phenomenon, every person of goodwill must display strong spiritual resistance."

He called on everyone "to work, through dialogue and in a spirit of mutual respect, to preserve peaceful coexistence and cooperation, against practices that boost fear and divide society."

"The Holy Church of Christ, in faith in the teaching of our Lord, is making strenuous efforts in this direction. The Church prays for the resting of the victims' souls, and expresses its heartfelt condolences to their families, and wishes courage and speedy recovery to the injured. At the same time, it expresses its sympathy and support for the local community of El Paso as well as Dayton, the US government and people in the US," said the Patriarchate.

The Ecumenical Patriarch asked the Archbishop of America Elpidoforos to convey the above message of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to local and national authorities and to the people of the United States at large.